

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for video content-based selection of
2 programming for recording comprising:

3 a connection for receiving broadcast programming;
4 and

5 an image processor comparing a demodulated field
6 from the received broadcast programming to a template
7 defining characteristics of video content desired to be
8 recorded and saving the field in response to determining at
9 least a threshold level of similarity between the field and
10 the template.

1 2. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the
2 template defines color characteristics and spatial
3 distribution of regions to be compared to the demodulated
4 field for determining a level of similarity.

1 3. The system as set forth in Claim 2 wherein the
2 template includes white regions of expected variability
3 which are ignored in comparing the template to the
4 demodulated field.

1 4. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the
2 image processor continuously compares demodulated fields
3 for a selected channel to the template.

1 5. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the
2 image processor compares demodulated fields for a selected
3 channel to the template during a predefined period.

1 6. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the
2 image processor compares successive demodulated fields to
3 the template and saves all demodulated fields having at
4 least the threshold level of similarity with the template
5 together with associated audio.

1 7. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the
2 image processor compares demodulated fields for a plurality
3 of channels each to a designated template from one or more
4 templates.

1 8. A video receiver comprising:
2 a connection for receiving broadcast programming;
3 a tuner demodulating fields from the received
4 broadcast programming;
5 nonvolatile storage containing one or more
6 templates defining characteristics of video content desired
7 to be recorded; and
8 an image processor comparing a demodulated field
9 to a template and saving the field in response to
10 determining at least a threshold level of similarity
11 between the field and the template.

1 9. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the template defines color characteristics and
3 spatial distribution of regions to be compared to the
4 demodulated field for determining a level of similarity.

1 10. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 9
2 wherein the template includes white regions of expected
3 variability which are ignored in comparing the template to
4 the demodulated field.

1 11. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the image processor continuously compares
3 demodulated fields for a selected channel to the template.

1 12. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the image processor compares demodulated fields for
3 a selected channel to the template during a predefined
4 period.

1 13. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the image processor compares successive demodulated
3 fields to the template and saves all demodulated fields
4 having at least the threshold level of similarity with the
5 template together with associated audio.

1 14. The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8
2 wherein the image processor compares demodulated fields for
3 a plurality of channels each to a designated template from
4 one or more templates.

1 15. A method of video content-based selection of
2 programming for recording comprising:

3 obtaining a field from broadcast programming;
4 comparing the field from the broadcast
5 programming to a template defining characteristics of video
6 content desired to be recorded; and
7 saving the field in response to determining at
8 least a threshold level of similarity between the field and
9 the template.

1 16. The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein the
2 step of comparing the field from the broadcast programming
3 to a template defining characteristics of video content
4 desired to be recorded further comprises:

5 comparing the field to a template defining color
6 characteristics and spatial distribution of regions to be
7 compared to the demodulated field for determining a level
8 of similarity.

1 17. The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein the
2 step of comparing the field from the broadcast programming
3 to a template defining characteristics of video content
4 desired to be recorded further comprises:

5 comparing the field to a template including white
6 regions of expected variability which are ignored in
7 comparing the template to the demodulated field.

1 18. The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein the
2 step of comparing the field from the broadcast programming
3 to a template defining characteristics of video content
4 desired to be recorded further comprises:

5 continuously comparing fields for a selected
6 channel to the template.

1 19. The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein the
2 step of comparing the field from the broadcast programming
3 to a template defining characteristics of video content
4 desired to be recorded further comprises:

5 comparing fields for a selected channel to the
6 template during a predefined period.

1 20. The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein the
2 step of comparing the field from the broadcast programming
3 to a template defining characteristics of video content
4 desired to be recorded further comprises:

5 comparing successive fields to the template and
6 saves all fields having at least the threshold level of
7 similarity with the template together with associated
8 audio.

1 21. The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein the
2 step of comparing the field from the broadcast programming
3 to a template defining characteristics of video content
4 desired to be recorded further comprises:

5 comparing fields for a plurality of channels each
6 to a designated template from one or more templates.

1 22. A datastream for use with a video receiver
2 comprising:

3 a broadcast programming stream including selected
4 broadcast programming; and

5 at least one template defining characteristics of
6 video content desired to be recorded, wherein the at least
7 one template is suitable for being employed by the video
8 receiver to select a portion of the broadcast programming
9 stream for recording based upon similarity of a field
10 within the selected portion of the broadcast programming
11 stream to the at least one template.